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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia: draft resolution

Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights,[2] the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the World Summit for

[1] Resolution 48/104.

[2] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] See Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

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Social Development[4] and the Fourth World Conference on Women,[5] specifically as the results pertain to women migrant workers,

Emphasizing the need for accurate, objective and comprehensive information, as well as for a wide exchange of experiences and lessons learned by individual countries in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers for policy formulation and joint action,

Acknowledging the results of the Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women Migrant Workers, held at Manila from 27 to 31 May 1996, and the comments thereon by Member States and relevant international organizations,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of the sending States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to sending and receiving States from the employment of women migrant workers,

Stressing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their rights and welfare,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers;[6]

2. Encourages concerned Governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to develop, as appropriate, systematic data collection methods and to update and share information on violence against women migrant workers;

3. Urges concerned Governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to strengthen their national efforts to protect and promote the rights and welfare of women migrant workers through sustained bilateral,

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[4] See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[5] See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[6] A/52/356.

regional, interregional and international cooperation, including by developing strategies and joint action, and taking into account innovative approaches and experiences of individual Member States;

4. Urges concerned Governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to support and allocate appropriate resources for programmes aimed at strengthening preventive action, in particular information for relevant target groups, education and campaigns to increase public awareness of this issue at the national and grassroots levels, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations;

5. Encourages concerned Governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to support training programmes for public officials dealing with the problem of violence against women migrant workers, in particular law enforcers, to assist women migrant workers who are victims of violence and in the reporting of such cases and the prosecution of the perpetrators, to provide adequate consular, counselling, legal and welfare services and to consider adopting appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

6. Encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[7] as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926;[8]

7. Invites all relevant United Nations human rights treaty bodies, particularly the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, relevant thematic and country rapporteurs, particularly the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and its working groups, within their respective mandates, to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers in their deliberations and findings with a view to promoting and protecting their rights and welfare;

8. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women to address the issue of violence against women migrant workers at its forty-second session under the thematic issues on violence against women and/or human rights of women;

9. Invites the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights at their sessions in 1998 to address the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of women migrant workers in connection with the five-year review of the Vienna Programme of Action[9] and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

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[7] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[8] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 212, No. 2861.

[9] Resolution 217 A (III).

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a comprehensive report on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, taking into account the views of Member States and based on the expertise and all available information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the International Organization for Migration, and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations, as well as on the implementation of this resolution.